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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/696,178 Confirmation No. : 4348
Applicants : Koichi FURUSAWA et al. TC/A.U. : 3737
Filed : October 26, 2000 Examiner : Runa S Qaderi
Atty. Docket No. : P19724
Customer No. : 7055
Title : ENDOSCOPE SYSTEM

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of June 3, 2003, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on September 3, 2003, and for which a Request for Extension of Time for one month is being filed concurrently herewith, setting the period for response to expire on October 3, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the following:

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SEP 25 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.